Excise Duty on Readymade Garments

2455. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of excise duty collected on branded and non-branded readymade garments, separately in the current financial year *i.e.* 2001-2002;

(b) whether it is a fact that the honest non-branded readymade manufacturers have closed down their units due to the burden of 16 per cent Excise duty;

(c) if so, whether Government would reconsider the imposition of Excise duty on non-branded readymade garments; and

(d) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The total amount of excise duty collected on branded and non-branded readymade garments during the financial year 2001-2002 is Rs. 160.10 crore and Rs. 10.53 crore respectively. The figures are provisional.

(b) As per information available no garment unit has closed down solely on account of the burden of Excise duty.

(c) and (d) Do not arise, in view of reply to part (b) above.

Implementation of ERC Recommendations

2456. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fresh instructions were issued in early December, 2001, to various Ministries/Departments to implement scrupulously by 31.12.2001 the recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission on downsizing the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the specific results achieved towards the plan to downsize the Government and to curtail establishment related expenditure;

(d) whether it is a fact as reported in the Hindustan Times dated